demand of the people of West Bengal to introduce an express train from Sealdah to Murshidabad in the morning;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said train to be named as Siraj Express; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the delay to introduce such train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). some representations have been received from MPs of the area.

*(c) and (d). There is no proposal at present to introduce an express train from Sealdah to Murshidabad due to operational including line capacity and terminal constraints besides resources constraints.

Air India flights

169. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Qatar a Gulf country has refused permission to Air India flights to land there;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). Qatar Airways were operating their services to India under an ad-hoc entitlement which was bilaterally agreed for a limited period. When this ad-hoc entitlement was not extended, the Civil Aviation Authorities of Qatar refused permission to Air India to operate their services to Doha with effect from 20th and 23rd April, 1995. The matter was taken up at diplomatic level and the permission for Air India's operation to Doha was restored on 23.4.1995. During the period between 20th and 23rd April, 1995 only one scheduled flight of Air India was disrupted.

Daily running of Saraighat Express

170. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the demand of the people of Assam to run the Saraighat Express (Howrah-Guwahati) daily instead of tri-weekly;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Some representations have been received in this regard. Running of Saraighat Express daily is at present not feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Amenities to Passengers at Garifa Railway Station

171. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that passengers of Garifa Railway station have made a representation to the Railway Authorities for providing minimum passenger amenities and improvement of the said station;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that minimum passenger amenities are not available at this station;

(c) whether the Government propose to improve it due to heavy increase in earning from this station;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to beautify this station like Hooghly Ghat station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e). Amenities commensurate with the volume of passenger traffic exist at the station. At a measures of further improvement provision of platform shelter and foot-over-bridge have been sanctioned. Work of repairs/ white washing, repairs to platform fencing & stair case have been taken up to give a facelift.

AIR projects in Kerala

172. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any developmental Projects proposed to be set up in Kerala during 1996-97 by All India Radio; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). the details of the schemes proposed as part of 8th Five Year Plan are given below:

Location	Scheme
1	2
Trivandrum	New Type IV Studio
Trivandrum	Commercial Broadcasting Service - Replacement of 1 KW MW Transmitter with 10 KW FM Transmitter.